

## EL PASO HERALD

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## Is Suicide Or Murder Excusable?

IS THERE an excuse for murder and suicide under certain conditions? A prominent physician has declared that there is such an excuse for both. Other doctors will disagree with him and some others will agree. Other laymen will disagree and other laymen will agree. He made the statement before a convention of ministers. It is certain that the ministers disagree with him—most of them anyhow—but if they did, they failed to get up in meeting and say so and silence, the old proverb says, gives consent.

Dr. Edward Anthony Spitzka, professor of anatomy at Jefferson Medical college and one of the leading brain specialists of the country, before the Clerical Brotherhood of the Protestant Episcopal church at Philadelphia, is the man responsible for the two very bold statements.

The doctor was asked if there is any distinguishing feature in the brain of a suicide.

"No," replied the doctor, "there is no appreciable difference to indicate any such tendency. The brain of the suicide is generally normal, except in the case of a victim of alcoholism, in which case the alcoholism will show."

"I believe that in some cases a person is justified in committing suicide and I do not think it would be held against them in the hereafter."

"Take, for instance, a person doomed to die from cancer and suffering torture. In that case I think there would be no responsibility attached. A spying soldier sentenced to be hanged in the morning, I think, would be justified in disposing of himself before an ignominious death."

"Then, again, take an engine man caught under his engine in a train wreck, with a fire rapidly approaching. He would be due to go in a few minutes, anyway, and I feel that a physician would be justified in giving him a grain of morphine to relieve him of his sufferings."

There is at least room for discussion as well as food for thought in the remarks of the doctor. Maybe the time will come when he will be vindicated generally, especially in his suicide theory. Who knows?

Farewell, soldier boys. El Paso's best wishes follow you.

The Texas Irrigation congress has a live man at its head in M. L. Swinehart, of Pecos.

Farmers of all classes will find interesting news in The Herald's Saturday dry farming pages.

Bible reading is not necessary to be a religious reader; you can be a religious reader of the sporting columns if you want to.

There is going to be a rivers and harbors bill this year, which means that there will hardly be a public buildings bill, and that El Paso will have to wait for the new postoffice.

The Texas Dry Farming congress will meet in Eagle Pass the last Wednesday in August. Every town in west Texas should prepare to send delegates. This work, next to irrigation, will do more for west Texas than any other movement ever started.

## Prosperity In Northern Mexico

CHIHUAHUA is showing a great awakening in the mining field of late, indicative of the general faith the public has in mining conditions in northern Mexico and this part of the country in general.

The heavy investments of the Pearson syndicate and the beginning of work on the extension of the Sierra Madre railroad has had a great deal to do with the resumption of mining activity in northern Mexico; Dr. Pearson is looked upon as a man of sense and judgment and his investments in Mexico have had the effect of assuring other capitalists that Mexican investments are safe; then the fact that his railroad is to be built through many districts now isolated, has given further impetus to the movement.

The Herald on Saturday printed news of the enlargement of two Mexican smelters—one at Terrazas and one at Chihuahua—and also the fact that extensive operations were to be commenced on the old Veta Colorado property. These announcements follow several others of a like nature in the last few days and show that northern Mexico is awakening and doing its share to increase the general prosperity of the southwest—of which El Paso as the commercial center, will get her share.

Get on the honor roll—subscribe to the young women's home fund.

El Paso has one question that is always present and it is not a dry one, either—it's the water question.

It would be unique to read of a murder trial these days and not see either the self defense or the unwritten law plea.

Let us hope that burro patrol doesn't get the Shriners the he haw at New Orleans.

The Herald prints the best mining columns in the southwest—more news and all of it accurate. The Herald's mining news is written by a man of lifelong experience in the camps of this section.

Fido is now in the class with the school boy after vacation is ended—his days of pleasure are over. It is a muzzle for Fido if he pokes his nose out of the front gate.

That Dalhart printer who saw three comets the other night only differs from many people in that there were tails to what he saw. Lots of persons see stars without much provocation regardless of the sky's condition.

The meat prices are dropping under the boycott, it appears because the dealers are anxious to get rid of their stocks, but the packers are not shipping in anything and as soon as the demand is resumed for meats, the prices will be where they were before.

The increase in values on Sonora street as a result of the decision to open San Antonio street ought to be proof enough of the importance of these street openings, and ought to warrant further openings where they are needed. It is better to open all such streets now than to wait five, ten or fifteen years and open them when the cost will be several times as much.

UNCLE WALT'S  
Denatured Poem

WE HAVE often roasted Nero that he played his violin, while his native Rome was burning and the firemen raised a din; there he sat and played "Bedeia," heedless of the fiery storm, while the fire chief pranced and sweated in his neat uniform. And I often think that Nero had a pretty level head; would the fire have been extinguished had he fussed around instead? Would the fire insurance folks have loosened up a shakedown, had old Nero squirted water on some grocer's cellar door? When there comes a big disaster people straightway lose their wits; they go round with hands a-wringing, sweating blood and throwing fits; but the man sits and fiddles, plays a tune from end to end, for it never occurs to worry over things you cannot mend. It is good to offer battle when catastrophes advance, it is well to keep on scripping while a fellow has a chance; but when failure is as certain as the coming of the dusk, then it's wise to take your fiddle and fall back on "Money Musk."

NERO'S FIDDLE

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Back Mason

SIDELIGHTS  
Along Washington  
Byways.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 29.—Now, about that historic remark of the governor of North Carolina to the governor of South Carolina:—

For some reason or other they don't seem to make that observation so much lately. The fact has been noticed incidentally to the gathering of governors in this town this week.

Gov. Kitchin, of North Carolina, was shaking hands with the Honorable Somebody Else, when Gov. Ansel, of South Carolina, appeared.

"Now," observed an outsider, "I want to know whether history repeats itself."

"No; we frown on the demon rum in my state now," declared Gov. Ansel.

"Certainly not; we have been caught in the wave of moral reform," declared Gov. Kitchin.

Whereupon nobody said a word about the excessive lapse of time between libations, nobody took a drink, and the story got circulation that the governors of both the Carolinas, if not abstainers, come so near it that nobody has been able to put a highball over on either of them since they came to town.

The governors' gathering has been curiously illuminating as to this matter of people's attitude toward the business of drinking drink. Statisticians gathered during the meeting indicate that more than half the governors don't drink at all, and several of the others positively refused to line up in front of a bar to take theirs, though some of them did sip a bit at some of the numerous banquets extended to them.

But the punch—the wonderful punch that was served everywhere they went, with concentrated anarchy in its every drop, with rebellion in a drink and revolution in every half pint—it must be conceded that their excellencies certainly "fell for it" regularly.

And then they carried it around with the dignity which would best persons accustomed to taking something more or less regularly. The social observers have given up in despair. They can't explain, except that the barkeepers utterly failed, and the pretty girls at the



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Mr. Peters' latest attempt to make a speech was when the Mann "white slave" bill was up for consideration.

He was loaded to the guards with information. His speech was piled high with law books; he had on his speaking clothes and chairman Mann had given him half an hour. His secretary had distributed printed copies of his speech. Mr. Peters was certain he would beat this time, but a brother Democrat got the floor, kept it for an hour, and when Mr. Peters arose, Sen. E. Payne, floor leader, also arose and moved that the house adjourn, which it did with alacrity.

Mr. Peters hopes to speak before he retires from congress.

## With The Exchanges

ALL DOING WELL.

From San Marcial (N. M.) Standard.  
El Paso is to have another bank. This makes eight such institutions for the Pecos City.

PUMP IRRIGATION.

From Bisbee (Ariz.) Review.  
Another good rain during the next two weeks would put the farmers and stockmen of the Sulphur Springs valley in line for a prosperous year. Many new settlers are coming to the valley and many are getting ready to make a thorough test of irrigation by pumping from the underground water supply.

WOULD BENEFIT ALL.

From Raton (N. M.) Reporter.  
A gladstone note wafts in from Arizona. It is announced that there is great activity among the big copper producers of the Globe district, with 15 cent copper in sight. This means a sterling call for coal and coke from Colfax county, for which we have bent the listening ear these many moons.

WATER FOR MORE LAND.

From Phoenix (Ariz.) Republican.  
Gov. Sloan has been assured by the secretary of the interior that funds will be provided for the reclamation of 20,000 acres in the neighborhood of Parker, by the installation of pumping plants this year. Before many years the "Parker country" will have added several millions of dollars to the taxable wealth of Arizona.

SOME EARLY HISTORY.

From Army and Navy Journal.  
In reading the chapter on the close of the war of 1812 in their story of the 21st United States Infantry, written by Capt. C. E. Hampton, of that regiment (who married Miss Pascal, of San Antonio, Texas), we are reminded of the very warm protest we received some time ago from some enthusiastic women associated with a patriotic order for having suggested that commodore Macdonough had not been properly honored for winning the battle of Lake Champlain, while a great monument had been erected to commemorate the part played by Gen. Macomb in defeating the columns of Sir George Prevost.

Capt. Hampton, who might naturally be expected, as an infantry officer, to give full weight to all the claims to primary importance for the land forces, writes: "Gen. Macomb's troops successfully checked the assaulting columns of Sir

George Prevost, yet had the result of the battle been the same, the land it is evident he would sooner or later have been forced to succumb to the crushingly superior numbers brought against him. But Sir George was victorious with greater care for the outcome of the contest, for he would read this chapter by Capt. Hampton, that they might understand the pitiable condition to which this country was brought by its dependence upon an "aroused people," who too long have been held in the American nation as a satisfactory substitute for a trained army. Capt. Hampton gives details regarding the little known part that the smuggler, Jacques Lafitte, played in the battle of New Orleans, when Jackson defeated the British forces under Gen. Pakenham.

Lafitte had gathered about him on Barataria bay, just west of the mouth of the Mississippi, a little colony of reckless men. British agents there offered him advantages for his assistance, but Lafitte went to Jackson with a promise to aid him on condition that the general and the governor of Louisiana intercede with the United States government to obtain immunity from prosecution for past offenses.

Having received the promises of these officials, he marched his men to the American camp, where, being trained in the battle of New Orleans, the immunity he sought, but was always regarded with suspicion.

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